

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>RESPONSE TO STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE</b>	Title: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND ARTICLES OF MANUFACTURE FOR SOFT HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING OF CO-OCCURRING OBJECTS	
	Inventor(s):	Eric Gaussier
	Application No.:	09/982,236
	Filing Date:	October 19, 2001
	Confirmation No.	7611
	Examiner:	Cam Linh T. Nguyen
Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Art Unit:	2161
	Notice of Allowance:	September 14, 2009

Dear Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication as to the allowance of the present application.

However, applicants respectfully submit the Statements of Reasons for Allowance are, in and of themselves, inappropriate. It is noted that the reasons for allowance may be set forth in instances in which " . . . the Examiner believes that the record of the prosecution as a whole does not make clear his or her reasons for allowing a claim or claims." (37 CFR §1.104(e)(2004)). In the present case, applicants believe the record as a whole does make the reasons for allowance clear and, therefore, no statement by the Examiner is necessary or warranted. Furthermore, the applicants do not necessarily agree with each statement in the reasons for allowance.

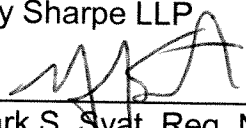
Specifically, it has been indicated that the claims are allowed by importing interpretations into the claims in relation to the prior art that results in a potential imprecise and/or inaccurate understanding of the reasons. This places an unwarranted interpretation upon the claims. Such a characterization of the claims does not properly take into account applicants' claimed invention as reflected in the specification and the applicants' responses to the Examiner's office actions.

Therefore, while applicants believe the claims are allowable, applicants do not acquiesce that patentability resides in only the features, exactly as expressed in the claims, nor that each feature is required for patentability.

Respectfully submitted,

Fay Sharpe LLP

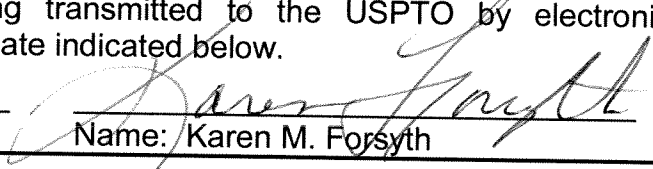
11.17.09  
Date

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any item referred to herein as being attached or enclosed) is (are) being transmitted to the USPTO by electronic transmission via the EFS Web on the date indicated below.

11-17-09  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Karen M. Forsyth